

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 OES-03 HEW-02 AID-05 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079817

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO, PORG, XF

SUBJECT: 28TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: ARAB/ISRAELI

1. RECENT EVENTS HAVE INCREASED THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SOME ARAB MEMBERS OF WHO MAY PRESS FOR PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL AT THE FORTHCOMING WHA IN MAY IN GENEVA OVER ISRAELI HEALTH PRACTICES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE
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DANGERS FOR US POLICY ARE THAT ISRAEL MIGHT BE FURTHER ISOLATED IN THE UN SYSTEM AND THAT CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO THIS WOULD LEAD TO A CUT OFF OF US FUNDS FOR WHO, AS

WAS THE CEASE WITH UNESCO. A RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED LAST YEAR WHICH DEPLORED THE FAILURE OF ISRAEL TO ABIDE BY RELEVANT UNGA AND WHA RESOLUTIONS, AND SIMILAR CONDEMNATORY LANGUAGE COULD BE TOLERATED THIS YEAR. FAR MORE SERIOUS WOULD BE THE IMPOSITION OF ARTICLE 7 WHICH PROVIDES THAT FAILURE TO MEET FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS "OR IN OTHER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY MAY ON SUCH CONDITIONS AS IT THINKS PROPER, SUSPEND THE VOTING PRIVILEGE AND SERVICES TO WHICH A MEMBER IS ENTITLED." THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN UTILIZED TO DEPRIVE THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC OF ITS VOTE FOR FAILURE TO PAY ITS ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS BUT THE ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT A SIMPLE MAJORITY OR TWO-THIRDS VOTE WAS REQUIRED FOR THIS

MOVE DID NOT ARISE.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH ITS PREPARATIONS FOR THE 28TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, THEREFORE, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING A CURRENT ASSESSMENT BY THE MISSION OF THE LIKELY COURSE OF SUBJECT ITEM. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A CURRENT ASSESSMENT BY DIRECTOR GENERAL MAHLER AS HOW HE SEES THE SITUATION DEVELOPING AND WHAT HOPE HE HAS OF DEFUSING THE EXPLOSIVENESS OF A CONFRONTATION ON HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE US DESIGNATED MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, DR. EHRLICH, IS IN GENEVA ATTENDING THE MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES FROM APRIL 6-11. THE MISSION HAS ALREADY MADE AN APPOINTMENT FOR HIM TO MEET WITH DR. MAHLER. THE DEPARTMENT HAS ENCOURAGED DR. EHRLICH TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE MISSION, AND RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH DR. MAHLER SO THAT WE MAY HAVE HIS UP-TO-DATE ASSESSMENT AND TO LEARN THE STATUS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT AND THE KIND OF ACTION, IF ANY, THE COMMITTEE WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE WHA.

3. IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL UNDER ARTICLE 7, WOULD FIND HELPFUL MISSION'S VIEW AS CONFIDENTIAL

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TO WHETHER 2/3 THIRDS MAJORITY REQUIREMENT CAN BE ESTABLISHED AND UPHELD.

4. AN EARLY REPORT FROM THE MISSION WOULD BE APPRECIATED SO THAT WE MAY ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE STRATEGY FOR HANDLING THIS ISSUE AT THE 28TH WHA. KISSINGER

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